

OUR CARY OF AMPHILL

COMPARED WITH HIM BRUTUS WAS A VAINGLORIOUS WEAKLING.

A Famous Virginian's Method of Checking an Attempt to Make Patrick Henry Dictator—A Threat to Stick a Dagger in the Orator's Heart.

In a late article the Record had occasion to mention Cary of Amphill, in connection with his remarkable message to Patrick Henry concerning a dictatorship. As this historical incident is probably unknown to many of our readers, and attention, so far as we know, has never been called to its historical significance, we may be pardoned for unfolding somewhat our recent allusion to it.

The period was one of extreme depression in the affairs of the colonies—perhaps the most depressing in the war of the Revolution. A writer, sketching the situation, says:

"The British held the city of New York. Fort Washington had fallen. The American Commander-in-Chief, pressed by overwhelming numbers, was flying through the Jerseys."

The moral situation, if anything, was more deplorable than the military. In these circumstances, the question uppermost in the minds of patriots was: "What shall we do to be saved?" to which it is not surprising that some answers were given less adapted to save us than to complete our ruin. Of these the most dangerous was the scheme of a dictatorship. That it was proposed in the House of Delegates of Virginia we have Jefferson's authority. That it was strongly supported may be inferred from the fact, also authenticated by Jefferson, that a renewal of the proposition a few years later, under conditions less critical, and when the tide having been gloriously "omitted" at the flood its voyage was "bound in shallows," wanted nevertheless "a few votes only of being passed." Jefferson's biographer tells us that for some cause not explained Jefferson "preserved an almost impenetrable reserve" in regard to this project of a dictatorship in all its stages. Apparently the motive was more formidable, and its supporters of greater name, than loyal Virginians have cared to admit. When originally proposed, Patrick Henry was Governor of the Commonwealth, and nobody has ever disputed that he was the dictator contemplated by the advocates of the measure, though he himself made no sign, it would appear. The feeling excited by the proposition ran high. "The members who favored it, and those who opposed it," according to one authority, "walked the streets on different sides." At this crisis Colonel Archibald Cary, the Speaker of the Senate, and a Virginian of note in every relation, meeting in the lobby of the Senate Colonel Syme, Henry's step-brother, accosted him in these terms:

"Sir, I am told your brother wishes to be dictator; tell him from me that the day of his appointment shall be the day of his death, for he shall find my dagger in his heart before the sunset of that day."

Colonel Syme is represented as having replied in "great agitation" to the effect that if such a project existed his brother had no hand in it, for nothing could be more foreign to him than to countenance any office which could endanger, in the most distant manner, the liberties of his country.

This in itself signified little or nothing, since those who espoused a dictatorship, though misguided, were patriots, looking upon the office as not endangering the liberties of the country, but as the only means of preserving them. In "Notes on Virginia" Jefferson declares that most of these men (none of whom he names) "meant well," avowing that he "knew them personally, had been their fellow-laborer in the cause, and had often proved the purity of their principles." The excited protest of Colonel Syme, however, though itself irrelevant, was followed by an express disclaimer from Patrick Henry, supported by the uniform declarations of his friends, and opposed by no evidence that has reached the public. His disclaimer appears to have been accepted by history; which no doubt is as it should be.

Be this as it may, it is certain that a dictatorship was proposed in the Virginia House of Delegates; that it was advocated, in and out of that body by some of the purest and most influential patriots of Virginia, and that Patrick Henry, the most popular man in the Commonwealth, was the dictator upon whom the friends of the scheme had fixed in their conclaves. The gravity of this state of things it is not easy to overestimate. Had the movement thus begun, and growing stronger daily, been allowed to run its course unchecked, it is impossible to say how or who would not have been drawn into it. Patrick Henry, yielding to the despair and delusion of the juncture, might actually have placed himself at its head. Jefferson and Madison themselves, influenced by like motives, deeply as both abhorred the principle involved, might have lent it their support, actively or passively. Nor is it possible to say that, if Virginia had formally proposed the measure, the other States would not have followed her lead, as they had done in other measures of moment (in establishing representative Legislatures, forming the Revolutionary Government, moving for independence, ceding vacant lands, etc., and as they were destined to do thereafter, notably in breaking ground for the Constitution, which banks and buttresses all the rest. It is not too much to say that the fate of America at that time trembled in the balance. Chains and slavery, as well as liberty, were in the cards, and in all probability would have been turned

up if the perilous game had been played out.

But it was fated to meet with a memorable check—a check not physical so much as moral, if physical at all. Girardin, a trusted correspondent of Jefferson's, asserts, indeed, that "the apprehension of personal danger produced a relinquishment of the scheme;" but, enterprises of this desperate cast, experience shows that "the apprehension of personal danger" counts for little. The real deterrent, it seems more probable, was not the lack of courage to pursue the measure, but the sudden and vivid realization of its enormity, produced by one touch of intense manhood. In that darkest hour of our struggle for liberty, when the wisest could not see their hands before them, and the firmest knew not where to stop, the word of Cary of Amphill to Patrick Henry was the lightning-flash that revealed to these despairing patriots the precipice toward whose edge they were now dragging their country; and they drew back. It was the moral thunderbolt that arrested the fiery couriers of independence at the moment when they threatened to involve the cause in irreparable disaster. All honor to Cary of Amphill! Compared with him, Brutus was a vainglorious weakling—a dupe and tool. America owes Cary of Amphill gratitude, but has forgotten the debt and is forgetting him. Already the cyclopaedias (especially the up-to-date ones) are dropping his name. Yet he was one of the very foremost men of action in Virginia during the Revolutionary period, ranking "with the first intellects of the epoch," says Appleton's Cyclopaedia of forty years ago, and certainly serving with distinction and unwavering fidelity the cause of his country through its most trying vicissitudes. He is described as "a man of singular courage," whose "serene intrepidity shrunk from no peril, and counted no cost, where his honor or rights were concerned." His contemporaries bestowed on him the sobriquet "Old Iron," expressive of his inflexible firmness. At the close of his term in the State Senate, in the course of which the Henry incident occurred, he retired to his estate of Amphill, where he died not long after at the age of fifty-six, esteemed and beloved by Virginians of all parties.—Philadelphia Record.

A Strange Island.

One of the most extraordinary islands in the world has been found in the Gulf of Mexico. Like a chameleon, it changes color, and as often as twice a day. When the sand along the beach is not covered with water the island is purple red, and at high tide it has the color of bright gold. An explanation of this singular phenomenon is to be found in the name of the island. It is called Snails Island, and it is the snails which are responsible for the change of color. The sand is of a golden hue, and when the water rises and spreads over the wide bay, which is strewn with mussel shells, the island glitters like gold. As soon, however, as the water recedes, the gold changes to a purple red, which becomes even darker, until it is finally as dark as the purple of a prince's mantle. The reason is because myriads of little purple snails are then spread over the sand, searching eagerly for the food which is cast up to them by the water. This strange change of color is now attracting much attention, and those who have seen it say it is one of the most remarkable sights in the world.

The Care of Fish.

Fish should be allowed a gallon of water each, that is, for every fish of medium size, say three inches long. The bottom of the aquarium should be covered one-half inch deep with sand; there should be water-plant enough to furnish the fish with oxygen and absorb the carbonic acid, and also a few tadpoles and snails to act as scavengers. These conditions are for a self-sustaining aquarium, where no change of water is necessary. If, on the contrary, the fish are kept in a globe, say of half gallon to two gallons capacity, with four or five full grown fish, at least half of the water must be changed daily. If the fish are but half an inch or two inches long, and each one has a half gallon of water, water need be added only to replace the loss by evaporation. Whenever the fish come to the surface it indicates that the water, or part of it at least, should be freshened. They should be fed each day only as much as they eat up clean.—Indianapolis News.

Queer Kinds of Bread.

Bread is made of vastly different materials in different countries. In Lapland, oats with the inner bark of the pine are used. The two together, well ground and mixed, are made into large flat cakes and cooked in a pan over the fire. In Kamchatka, in Asiatic Russia, pine or birch bark by itself, well macerated, pounded and baked, frequently constitutes the whole of the native bread food. The Icelanders scrape the Iceland moss off the rocks and grinds it into fine flour, which serves both for bread and puddings. In parts of Italy chestnuts are cooked, ground into meal, and used for making bread. Durra, a variety of millet, is much used in India, Egypt, Arabia and Asia Minor for making bread.

Earliest Riser Among Birds.

The green finch is the earliest riser among the bird family. It begins to pipe about 1 o'clock in the morning. The blackcap begins at 2.30. It is nearly 4 o'clock before the blackbird appears. It is heard half an hour before the thrush, and the chirp of the robin begins about the same length of time before that of the wren. The house sparrow and the tom-tit take the last stage of the list.

HOW DIAMONDS BREAK.

It Happens Very Seldom, and Only When They Fall Just Right.

Secretary Harry Pullman, of the Pittsburg Baseball Club, who has been in this city on a visit for some time, smashed and utterly destroyed a \$500 diamond at the Louisville Hotel yesterday morning. It was such an accident as will not happen to a diamond once in ten thousand times, so Mr. Pullman feels that it is "outrageous fortune" with a vengeance. "Anywhere but in Louisville," he said, "it wouldn't have happened—old hard-luck Louisville," and he thought of the erstwhile Colonel's long years of struggling in the National League against the baseball demon of ill luck. The stone was set in a ring which had been given him by the members of the Pittsburg team last fall. It was of the fiery white variety, and for its size—a little more than two carats—was unusually valuable and handsome. The gold claws which held the ring in place were heavy, and one would suppose would have given the stone ample protection against any injury it might receive in a fall. Mr. Pullman was bathing at the time. He had had his hands in warm water, and the ring was still on his finger. He started to take it off and had withdrawn it from his finger when it slipped and fell from his grasp to the marble floor of the bathroom. It happened to strike at the one point necessary to cause its destruction. However, the fall would not have affected it in the least were it not for the fact that the gem was warm and the marble floor was cold.

The conditions were just right for such an accident, and the stone falling on the fatal point was shattered and ruined. It was split in two as evenly as if a lapidary had done the work. The upper part was still held in place by the gold claws, while the lower half lay against the base of the settings.

G. P. Kendrick, who saw the ring after the accident, said that he had in his whole experience as a jeweler heard of three such cases, and that such accidents to diamonds were generally rare.

"About twenty-five years ago a Louisville woman broke a large diamond in identically the same manner. She was washing her hands in warm water, and let her ring fall on a cold surface of some kind. Some years ago I saw another case of the kind in the Hoffman House lobby in New York. A gentleman took a stone valued at about \$4000 from his wallet to show some of his friends. It slipped from his hands and fell to the marble floor. It was literally shattered. Mr. Pullman could have hit that diamond of his with a hammer a hundred times and it wouldn't have made any impression upon it. A skilled lapidary can take a diamond and after close study can determine its grain. Then by a slight blow can chip it in the direction he wishes. Mr. Pullman's ring so happened to fall on the grain and was just at the right temperature to smash."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Microbe's Fine Work.

The mighty sweep of the locust over the fields of Portugal has at last been checked. Many means had been devised to stamp out the plague; insectivorous birds had been let loose; poisons had been freely strewn about. Man seemed to battle in vain with these devouring pests. Triumph came to the lowly bacterium. An ingenious professor at Coimbra thought out the problem, and with the aid of the microbe solved it. After many experiments the bacteriologist found that a microbe resembling that of cholera was most effective. Large cultures were made and sprinkled over the locusts' feeding places. The insects were noticed after a few days to grow thin and weak, and finally to disappear. There seems to be little doubt about the efficacy of the microbe to slay the locust, but after the locust is finished off the distressing question will arise as to what the microbe will turn his attention to.—Science.

Care in Making Axes.

An ax is subject to rigid tests before it is pronounced perfect. The steel must be of the required temper, the weight of all axes of the same size must be uniform, all must be ground alike, and in various other ways conform to an established standard. The inspector who tests the quality of the steel does so by hammering the blade and striking the edge to ascertain whether it be too brittle or not. An ax that breaks during the test is thrown aside to be made over. Before the material of an ax is in the proper shape it has been heated five times, including the tempering process, and the ax when completed has passed through the hands of about forty workmen, each of whom has done something toward perfecting it. After passing inspection the axes go to the grinding department, and from that to the polishers, who finish them upon emery wheels.

Why He Wept.

The extensive authority of parents under the Chinese laws is well known. A Chinaman of forty years, whose aged mother flogged him every day, shed tears in the company of one of his friends.

"Why do you weep?" he was asked. "Alas! things are not as they used to be," answered the devoted son. "The poor woman's arm grows feebler every day!"—Sporting Times.

Cardinal Richelieu frequently neglected his ministerial duties that he might have a frolic with his cats and kittens, of which he had a large collection.

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As the result of over-exertion and exposure to heat and cold, or from whatever cause, may be treated successfully by the timely application of St. Jacobs Oil. A thorough rubbing is necessary. The Oil should be applied vigorously for at least twenty minutes, two or three times daily, when all pain, soreness, stiffness will be removed in twenty-four hours. It will also strengthen and harden the muscles. Football players, gymnasts and all athletes will find St. Jacobs Oil superior to any other remedy for outward application, for the reason that its action is more rapid and its effect permanent. Thousands of people all over the world use and recommend St. Jacobs Oil for muscular soreness. A twenty-five-cent bottle is quite sufficient to prove its efficacy. In cases where muscular soreness is complicated with any disease which requires an alternative Vogeler's Curative Compound should be taken. This prepared by the proprietors of St. Jacobs Oil, Baltimore, Md., who will send a sample free on application.

California has almost a monopoly of the cultivation of apricots in the United States.

Chronic Tetter.

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PAPER. B. N. S.

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Only those who buy the genuine Syrup of Figs can hope to get its beneficial effects and as a guarantee of the excellence of the remedy the full name of the company—California Fig Syrup Co.—is printed on the front of every package and without it any preparation offered as Syrup of Figs is fraudulent and should be declined. To those who know the quality of this excellent laxative, the offer of any substitute, when Syrup of Figs is called for, is always resented by a transfer of patronage to some first-class drug establishment, where they do not recommend, nor sell false brands, nor imitation remedies. The genuine article may be bought of all reliable druggists everywhere at 50 cents per bottle.

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